

IN THE SPECIFICATION

Page 3, beginning at line 2, please amend as follows:

The pH of the surface layer may be adjusted by adding acid e.g. sulphuric acid thereto. The pH may be brought to a level in the range of from  $[[1,3]]$  1.3 to  $[[2,0]]$  2.0.

Page 4, beginning at line 27, please amend as follows:

In accordance with the invention a tailings pile 10, of the aforementioned kind, is adjusted in a step 12 to have a moisture content in the range of from 16% to 20% and preferably of the order of 18%. Thereafter, in a step 14, a surface layer of the tailings dump is ploughed using mechanical means, to a depth of the order of from  $[[0,5]]$  0.5 to  $[[1,0]]$  1.0 metres. In this way the surface layer is loosened and aerated. The compaction density is effectively reduced. At the same time dilute sulphuric acid is added to the surface layer to adjust the pH thereof to a value in the range of from  $[[1,3]]$  1.3 to  $[[2,0]]$  2.0 (step 16). The surface layer may be ploughed several times to ensure that it has the correct pH and moisture content and to ensure that such values are distributed substantially constantly throughout the surface layer.